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may attract persons residing in other parts of the town. Hence, an increase or decrease of facilities for committing suicide in the surrounding districts, such as the formation of a canal, &c., will naturally affect the number of such deaths in Westminster*.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF SAXONY.

Dresden, December 22, 1837.

Translated from the German, by W. R. DEVERELL, Esq., ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

At a meeting of the Directory of the Statistical Society of Saxony, held on the 21st of December, the President reported the result of the Society's labours during the past year—the seventh since the commencement of its operations.

The Report commenced by noticing the difficulties and obstacles with which the Society had to contend in executing the various tasks it had undertaken, and by acknowledging that, "The Statistical Manual" (*Staatshandbuch*), published by the Society at the termination of last year, was, in several respects, incomplete. At the same time, in extenuation of these deficiencies, were alleged the novelty of the undertaking, and a consequently imperfect supply of information in some particulars, which, it was hoped, would be more fully elicited in process of time and by additional experience.

The Report then presented, in the following order, a detailed account of the Society's proceedings. The Directory of the Society collects, arranges, and enters in journals, registers, and other books for this purpose, all accurate information which is of such a nature as to be serviceable to the purposes of the *State*. The facts are afterwards methodically transferred to separate ledgers, each appropriated to an especial subject; and those of peculiar importance, which present information directly useful to the public service, are extracted and laid before the Ministers of the Government; while such as offer a more general utility receive publicity in the pages of periodicals.

To the most interesting classes of facts belong, undoubtedly, the General Surveys of the Church Registry, which present annual accounts, in a systematic form, of every parish, with market-tables exhibiting the quantities and prices of food, and the government taxes levied thereon. In order to exhibit at one view, and thus to afford an easy means of comparing, these several accounts of each market-town, registers have been already introduced, in which each place has its own compartment, where the requisite entries of the different fluctuations are made. By this arrangement is furnished a current statistical chronicle of present facts in each place.

Education, in all its departments, from the highest Academies to the

* This is confirmed by the fact, that within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police, the two districts in which the greatest number of suicides were committed or attempted in 1836 and 1837 were those of the Regent's Park and Stepney, through both of which the Regent's Canal runs. This circumstance tends to shew that drowning is the mode of suicide most frequently resorted to in London, and that a canal offers greater facilities for that purpose than the river.—ED.

most humble Village-Schools, including the various modes of discipline prevalent in Grammar-Schools, Boarding-Schools, Industrial and Sunday-Schools, has always occupied the especial attention of the Society; and all statistical notices relating to these subjects have been not only collected, but annually abstracted and methodically arranged.

The great degree of consideration which has recently been devoted to the subject of Trade and Manufactures will, it is hoped, be evident, on examining the 8th Number of the publication entitled "Communications of the Statistical Society of the Kingdom of Saxony, 1837*." Enquiries on many other points are at present only in a state of commencement.

Owing to the readiness with which the different officers of the government have supplied the Directory with the requisite documents respecting the duties and taxes imposed throughout the country, it is now enabled to present an exposition of the quantities of meat consumed, the amounts of personal and trade taxes, and the revenue from tobacco and wines.

The prices of wool throughout the past year, with the quantities brought to each market, have also been systematically tabulated, so as to exhibit their principal results.

It is owing, further, to the exertions of the Branch Statistical Associations, as well as to the obliging co-operation of several magistrates and other local authorities, that the Directory has become possessed of very full information respecting the state of the Orphan Asylums, Hospitals, Almshouses, Charitable Institutions, Savings-Banks, Loan-Funds, and Insurance Societies.

The Comptroller of the Post-Office in Saxony has contributed important assistance to the Society by furnishing, from time to time, an account of the number of travellers by Post; and, in future, arrangements will be made to procure an account of letters transmitted through the Post-Offices, distinguishing the circulation of newspapers and periodical publications. An examination of this document will indicate the progress of the taste for reading and literature among the great mass of the population.

* The publication here referred to contains historical and statistical accounts of—

1. The porcelain manufacture at Meissen, where the article commonly known as "Dresden china" is principally made.

2. Extensive manufactures of wooden ware, stating the quantities and value of domestic and other utensils, musical instruments, children's toys, wooden combs, wooden chairs, &c., with the numbers and earnings of the work-people.

3. The quarrying and turning of the mineral named the serpent-stone, stating the kinds, quantities, and prices, of the various useful and ornamental articles made of it.

4. The produce and value of the pearl-fishery in the River Elster and several other streams. The pearls are found in a species of muscle, commonly about 6 inches in length and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in width, and are of three kinds—the pellucid, the semi-pellucid, and the sand-pearl.

The following is an abstract of the account,—

In the years	Number of Pearls found.	Value in Dollars.
1719 to 1804	11,286	10,000
1805 to 1825	2,258	2,156
1826 to 1836	1,549	893
Total in 117 years	15,393	13,049

The number of accidents by fire, and the sums paid by the Fire Insurance Offices to restore the buildings consumed, have been collected according to the form prepared in former years; and, after the lapse of some time, will serve to develop an average for future calculations.

It has long been a subject of regret, that the Society has not been able to procure the information requisite to form an extensive statistical account of buildings. An attempt, however, to supply the defect has this year been made by using the building-register now introduced for the purpose of forming a new plan for future fire-insurances, and, should no obstacles intervene, the task undertaken will hereafter be satisfactorily accomplished.

All information concerning fatal accidents and suicides is regularly received by the Society in the original form in which it is collected. It was formerly usual to notice only the most extraordinary circumstances under various aspects; but the remarkable increase of suicides, especially during the last year, has induced the Directory to devote especial attention to the record of these facts. The registers on this subject contain circumstantial details, and exhibit the painful fact that, the number of suicides is continually increasing.

With regard to the judiciary department of statistics, nearly all that was possible had been done; still several new items have been added to the exposition of former years. The lists of law-suits transmitted to the Directory by the subordinate judicial tribunals are in continuation of the previous registrations of the same series of objects. The examination and arrangement of the results of these lists belong certainly to the most laborious and tedious tasks undertaken by the Society. The accounts relating to this subject are finished for 1835 and 1836, and as soon as those for 1837 are completed, the whole will be printed and published, according to previous determination, in a separate form, and will form an appendix to the Society's fifth part of the "Communications." The new matter added thereto in the past year consists of a general review of the verdicts in criminal cases before the supreme courts, including an account of the sentences of death pronounced and executed.

The Directory has taken the necessary steps for procuring statistical facts relating to divorces, as decided in the various courts of appeal in the kingdom; and it already possesses much information, forming materials for an exposition of this nature, so that the Society will soon be able to furnish a complete view of judicial statistics.

With regard to Workhouses and Houses of Correction, the most complete and correct communications are received from the Supreme Commission for that department, and the Directory is thus enabled to enter into very minute particulars relating to these establishments.

The Military Statistics of the kingdom are at present in many points deficient. All, however, that could be elicited from partial communications has been used; and it affords the Directory pleasure to state the following fact connected with this subject. At the request of the Directory, the War Department has appropriated a particular column in its registers for the insertion of the newly-enlisted recruits who can neither write nor read, and hence this class, which originally was very small, is found to be diminishing each successive year.

The requisite information respecting the Police Departments in Dres-

den and Leipzig is carefully communicated to the Directory by the Police Committees of those places; and a series of connected results of several years offers to the statistical enquirer some interesting facts on this subject.

Concerning the relative condition of the native Jews, it was found necessary, in order to judge correctly of the effects of a newly-proposed law relating to them, that the details of their respective trades should be duly collected and arranged, and by the kind co-operation of the Police Committees of Leipzig and Dresden, the task has been accomplished in a satisfactory manner.

The Directory has often had occasion to express its regret at the great deficiency of information for constructing a well-methodised exhibition of Medical Statistics, especially as this department of statistical science is so successfully cultivated in the Prussian dominions. Many adverse circumstances have hitherto prevented the collection of authentic materials. To these, however, access has been obtained in the course of the past year. It was to be expected that the Physicians of Saxony, with the true estimate of science for which they have always been remarkable, would not refuse to assist in these matters, and that an invitation would alone be necessary to ensure their earnest and successful co-operation. Accordingly, not any of the official and town Physicians, or of the public Superintendents of Hospitals, have withheld a promise to forward to the Society, every six months, accounts in conformity with a prescribed plan, of the Medical Statistics of their respective circuits of practice; and many of the profession have proposed to extend the enquiry, which originally included only the most indispensable points, to a general medico-topographical survey of their respective districts; and thus another important step is effected in the progress of Statistical Science in Saxony.

With the view of attempting to supply the defects in the doubtful information hitherto received respecting the agricultural produce of the country, an application, on the part of the Society, has been made to the heads of the Rent-Office and Managers of the Royal Domains, to prepare and communicate annually certain tables exhibiting the extent and quantity of the crops, which, however incomplete, may serve to indicate the average annual produce of the harvest. This request has been granted, and the first task of the Directory in the ensuing year will be to arrange in a proper form the information obtained from this source.

Next to these and various other statistical investigations and collections on local subjects, the most important, and certainly most successful labour undertaken by the Society during the past year, has been the production of new tables of mortality, resting on data of a nature hitherto generally received, and calculated according to peculiar principles. The satisfactory accomplishment of this tardy and laborious task is attributable chiefly to the country clergymen, who, notwithstanding their numerous professional duties, have not shrunk from a statistical undertaking of so much importance, but have most willingly complied with the request of the Society, in transcribing from the Church Registers the requisite lists of deaths. Of these above 300 are in the possession of the Directory, and a satisfactory commencement has been made in the calculation and arrangement of the results. Statistical enquiries of this

description are particularly important, not only to institutions for pensions, loans, and insurances, but as serving the more elevated and general purpose of shewing to what degree of tranquillity, wealth, good morals and proper occupation conduce, especially at certain periods of life, to promote longevity; and, on the other hand, how far immoderate labour, dangerous pursuits, unhealthy localities, ill-conditioned habitations, with poverty and all its attendant anxieties, shorten the usual period which nature has assigned to the life of man.

Saxony, with a comparatively limited territory, possesses a great variety not only of soil and climate, but of economical and manufacturing industry in every department of the arts of civilized life. It has, therefore, a peculiar claim to be regarded as a region for the prosecution of *normal* observations relating to these subjects; the more so, as Providence, during several decennial periods, has protected it from war, dearth, pestilence, and other public calamities which occasion social confusion and alter the natural standard average of mortality. The fact that, in Saxony, the proportion of annual deaths varies from 1 in 19 to 1 in 65, sufficiently displays the important influence of the circumstances here stated (even with respect to the single question of duration of life), and justifies the degree of attention which the Society has bestowed upon them.

The Society experiences the greatest pleasure in observing that its efforts are generally appreciated; that several Foreign Scientific Societies have entered into correspondence with it; and that some of its publications have been translated into foreign languages; and, finally, in thankfully acknowledging the kind co-operation of the local magistracy of the country, and of private individuals, through which the Society's efficiency has been continually increased; it especially would express to the national government its most dutiful acknowledgments of the very important aid received from official authorities, without whose assistance it would have been quite impossible to attain even the approximation towards the prescribed end which has now been effected. But though the Society's operations are yet confessedly incomplete, yet, taking all circumstances into consideration, they are not unsatisfactory.

The present Report is accompanied by several propositions of subjects for the business of the ensuing year, the chief among which is the collection and arrangement of the results of the new census, and the re-publication of the Statistical Manual, with additional improvements.

Particulars connected with the Conveyance of Passengers on the Brussels and Antwerp Railway. By GEORGE LOCH. Read before the Statistical Society of Manchester, January, 1837, and printed in the Miscellaneous Collection of Reports and Papers of that Society, 1838.

CLASSIFICATION of Passengers who travelled on the Railway, between April 30th, and August 15th, 1836.

	Berlines.	Diligences.	Chars à banc.	Waggons.
Whole distance . . .	5,069	8,827	37,621	70,900
Short distances, chiefly to and from Mechlin }	1,116	4,938	44,409	196,166
Total . . .	6,185	13,765	82,030	267,066